

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124548  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07  
COME-00 FEA-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 TRSE-00 EPG-02 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:MRC  
APPROVED BY NEA/NAVELIOTES  
NEA/PA:GASHERMAN (SUBS)

-----282227Z 120862 /61

O 282159Z MAY 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY  
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY  
COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY  
EUCOM PRIORITY  
SECDEF  
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, TS, OY, IT

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: LIBYAN  
ACTIONS AND PRESS POLICY

REF: A) TUNIS 3778 B) STATE 123917  
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1. IN PRESENCE OF TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA, WHO HAD SAME  
INFO AS IN REF A, DEP ASST SECY VELIOTES, WITH HELP OF  
SENATOR BARTLETT, CONTACTED READING AND BATES BOARD  
CHAIRMAN BATES AT MIDDAY ON MAY 28. BATES SAID THAT LIBYAN  
MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD INDEED BOARDED DRILLING SHIP BUT  
THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN INVITED, AND THAT FIRM HAD IMMEDIATE-

LY CONTACTED LIBYAN NATIONAL OIL CO. TO HAVE THEM REMOVED. LIBYANS HAD COMPLIED. BATES ALSO REASSURED VELIOTES THAT SHIP WOULD NOT COMMENCE ANY DRILLING OPERATIONS PRIOR TO SCHEDULED TUESDAY MEETING IN TULSA REPORTED IN REF B.

2. IN ADDITION TO INFO IN REF A, HEDDA ADVISED THAT LIBYAN FONMIN TRAYKI HAD OFFERED TO COME TO TUNIS TO DISCUSS ISSUE EARLIER THIS WEEK, BUT ONLY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT J. W. BATES WOULD PROCEED TO DRILL. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI WAS INSTRUCTED TO REFUSE OFFER. LIBYAN OFFER HAD BEEN RENEWED ON MAY 28, WITH ADDITIONAL CONDITION THAT TUNISIAN PICKET BOATS BE WITHDRAWN.

TUNISIAN RESPONSE WAS THAT FONMIN WOULD BE WELCOME IF LIBYAN WARSHIPS WERE ALSO WITHDRAWN, AND IF THERE WERE NO DRILLING OPERATIONS. (I.E., CURRENT RELATIONS ARE AT IMPASSE, BUT AT LEAST BILATERAL CHANNELS EVIDENTLY REMAIN OPEN.)

3. HEDDA SAID PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA IS UNDER CONSTANT QUESTIONING, INCLUDING FROM DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ON WHY U.S. HAD APPARENTLY BLOCKED U.S. SHIPS FROM DRILLING FOR TUNISIA IN DISPUTED AREA BUT HAD NOT BLOCKED SIMILAR MOVE BY U.S. FIRM TO DRILL FOR LIBYA. HE URGED U.S. TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE IN WASHINGTON TO SUPPLEMENT EMB TUNIS EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN OUR LACK OF LEGAL REMEDIES. WE DO NOT PLAN TO DO SO FOR THE MOMENT SINCE NEWS IS NOT YET REFLECTED IN THE U.S. PRESS, AND SINCE WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE PUTTING PUBLIC PRESSURE ON READING AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BATES BEFORE MEETING NEXT WEEK. IN RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES, WE WILL STATE THAT WE REGRET DECISION OF COMPANY TO PROCEED AGAINST OUR ADVICE. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE124548  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TSWILKINSON:MRC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: LIBYAN ACTIONS AND PRESS POLICY  
**TAGS:** PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, IT, US, READING & BATES  
**To:** TUNIS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/13913d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009